



The City of Seattle  
**Landmarks Preservation Board**

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649  
Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

**STAFF REPORT**

LPB 09/22

**Property Name:** former Japanese Language School / Japanese Cultural & Community Center

**Address:** 1414 S Weller Street

**Features and Characteristics for which a Certificate of Approval is required:**

The exteriors of Buildings #1, #2 and #3; and the site.

**Designated under Standards:**

A and C.

**Summary of proposed changes:** Proposed installation of a mural on Building #1 addition, north end of west façade.

**PROPOSED MOTION FOR APPROVAL**

I move that the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board approve the application and issue a Certificate of Approval for the exterior mural on Building #1 of the former Japanese Language School / Japanese Cultural & Community Center, 1414 S Weller Street, as per the attached submittal.

**EXPLANATION AND FINDINGS**

This action is based on the following:

1. With regard to SMC 25.12.750 A, *the extent to which the proposed alteration or significant change would adversely affect the features or characteristics described in Ordinance 125743.*
  - a. The proposed mural is applied on top of the exterior siding, and no original siding will be removed or significantly altered.

- b. The proposed mural is large, but it is proportional to the blank wall on which it will be installed.
  - c. It is an assembly of multiple panels which helps mitigate its overall scale.
- 2. With regard to SMC 25.12.750 B, *the reasonableness or lack thereof of the proposed alterations or significant change in light of other alternatives available to achieve the objectives of the owner and the applicant.*
  - a. The location is highly visible, but is located on a secondary façade near the rear of the building, mitigating its view from the primary entries and fronts of Buildings #1 and 2.
  - b. Visibility of the mural is desirable to highlight “*We the Ancestors*”, and to honor the legacy and stories of Washington’s Japanese American community.
- 4. The factors of SMC 25.12 .750 C, D and E are not applicable.
- 5. The proposed work as presented is consistent with the following Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation as listed below (*or cite other applicable standards*):

*Standard #9: New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.*

*Standard #10: New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*